

MAGHERAFELT UNION (ELECTION OF OFFICERS).

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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 9 August 1883;—for,

COPY "of the REPORT of EVIDENCE taken before the Local Government Board Inspector respecting the Mode in which various POOR LAW ELECTIONS in the MAGHERAFELT UNION were conducted in March last, with the OBSERVATIONS of the Inspector and of the Local Government Board thereon."

(Mr. O'Brien.)

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
25 August 1883.

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COPY of the REPORT of EVIDENCE taken before the Local Government Board Inspector respecting the Mode in which various POOR LAW ELECTIONS in the MAGHERAFELT UNION were conducted in March last, with the OBSERVATIONS of the Inspector and of the Local Government Board thereon.

— No. 1. —

Mr. R. Hamilton to the Local Government Board, Dublin.

Gentlemen,

Newtownards, 17 July 1883.

In reference to your letter of the 25th ultimo, No. 22,366, forwarding the accompanying file of papers, I have the honour to inform you that, in compliance with your instructions, I held an inquiry at Magherafelt Workhouse, on the 13th and 14th instant, into the complaints which have been made relating to the election of guardians for the Salterstown, Carnamoney, and Iniscarn Divisions of that union, and I now forward the minutes of evidence taken by me.

The Salterstown Division case was inquired into on the 13th, and Mr. Steele, the returning officer, was the first witness examined. He describes the manner in which the election was conducted by him; and it will be seen that a scrutiny of the votes took place on the 27th March, in the presence of the two candidates and several other persons.

In the course of this scrutiny the vote of Mr. John M'Oscar (referred to in the correspondence) was objected to by Mr. Whan, on the ground that M'Oscar was not the rated occupier.

The returning officer gives the following explanation of the course adopted by him in dealing with this objection: "I asked the collector if he had any entry in his collecting book." He said "No," "nothing more than that the rate was paid." I knew that Mr. John M'Oscar was not the person rated. I then examined the list of voters for the previous year, and I found that the voting paper for the same holding had been signed by a 'Mary M'Oscar,' and on these grounds I considered it my duty to disallow the vote."

In reply to me, Mr. Steele said he did not remember asking the collector who had paid the rates.

The collector in his evidence, at page 6, states that the name of John M'Oscar is in his collecting book for a holding valued at 30*l.* 10*s.*; that there has been no change in the rating for the last four years, that the rates were paid to him by John M'Oscar since he became the collector, and that he (the collector) considered him to be the owner of the holding. Mr. Agnew, the collector, attended the scrutiny of the votes. In his evidence he says, "he believes Mr. Steele asked him if he had any observations on the face of his collecting books." He said, "he had not; that John M'Oscar was rated as the occupier; and, as well as he recollects, Mr. Steele asked him who paid the rates, and in reply he said, it was John M'Oscar, and that the same man had paid him for four years."

This conversation occurred at the scrutiny, and the collector swears his statement was made in the hearing of Mr. Steele, as he was sitting beside him at the time.

Three or four witnesses swear that they heard Mr. Steele make use of an expression at the scrutiny to the effect, that as votes had been cast off for Mr. Whan he would throw this one off also; but Mr. Steele denied having made use of the expression, and other witnesses who were present at the scrutiny swear that they did not hear him use the words. However this may be, it is manifest the decision of the returning officer in this case was wrong, and was made without sufficient inquiry into the claim of the voter.

Mr. M'Oscar was entitled to two votes, and by the decision of the returning officer these votes were lost to Mr. Larkin.

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It will be observed from the evidence of Henry Agnew, the person who distributed and collected the voting papers in a portion of the division, that he left the voting paper for a woman named Rose Anne Donaghy by mistake at the house of John M<sup>o</sup> Williams, and that when he went back there for it, he found it had been spoiled.

Rose Anne Donaghy swears she remembers Mr. Agnew bringing the voting paper to her from M<sup>o</sup> Williams' house, and that she was told it had been spoiled. The paper remained in her house until it was called for by the person who collected the votes, when it was taken from her. She swears that she went to the workhouse on the 22nd March, told Mr. Steele that her voting paper had been spoiled, and asked for a new paper to record her vote for Mr. Larkin. Mr. Steele said in reply to her application that there was no paper for her. She went again on the 26th March for the same purpose, but was unable to record her vote.

Mr. Larkin swears that he accompanied Rose Anne Donaghy when she went to Mr. Steele on Thursday, the 22nd March, and he asked for a duplicate of a spoiled paper for her, but Mr. Steele refused to give one.

He went a second time with her on the 26th March, and the request was again refused.

Mr. Steele states, that Rose Anne Donaghy is a voter, and that her paper was amongst the votes marked "nil"; that he has no note or memorandum of her having attended at his office to make application for a new voting paper; he says he will not swear she did not attend, but he has no recollection of her having done so, and he adds, if she had been entitled to a new voting paper he would have given her one.

It is clear this woman's vote was lost in consequence of the unsatisfactory manner in which the parties in charge of the voting papers discharged their duty.

Mr. Agnew should have informed the returning officer of the mistake he had made, and steps should have been taken to have it rectified. The returning officer's explanation, in reference to Rose Anne Donaghy's application, cannot, I think, be considered quite satisfactory.

In the cross-examination of Felix O'Neill, one of the persons who was employed as an assistant in collecting the voting papers, Mr. Whan stated there was reason to believe voting papers in his favour had been tampered with after they had left the hands of the voters, and in support of this statement he mentioned two cases. I therefore decided on making inquiry into them.

The first is that of a Mrs. Sheppard, No. 13. Her son positively swears he gave this voting paper to Felix O'Neill out of his own hand without being initialised for either of the candidates, and that the writing on the paper is not his mother's. The paper is annexed to his evidence, and appears to have been properly filled for Mr. Larkin.

The next case is that of Charles Shuter, who swears his voting paper was filled for Mr. Whan and no other, and his evidence is corroborated by his sister.

The paper is annexed to his evidence; it appears to have been spoiled, having been marked for both candidates.

Felix O'Neill swears he gave up the papers to Mr. Agnew, and that no alteration was made in any of them while in his possession.

It appears that Mrs. Sheppard's vote was recorded for Mr. Larkin instead of Mr. Whan, and that Charles Shuter's vote was lost to Mr. Whan.

Mr. Whan cannot form any idea when these papers were tampered with. His object in bringing forward the case was, I presume, in order to show that votes in his favour had been lost, as well as votes in favour of the other candidates.

## INISCARN ELECTION.

### INISCARN DIVISION.

The complaints relating to the election for the Iniscarn Division were inquired into on Saturday, the 14th instant, and the evidence is marked No. 2.

The returning officer describes the manner in which he discharged his duties, and states that as the services of the constabulary could not be obtained, he

employed Samuel Hutchinson, who had formerly been a rate collector, to distribute and collect the voting papers. A scrutiny of the papers took place on the 26th March, the two candidates and several others being present, when it was discovered that a large number of the papers had been tampered with, and in consequence were disallowed; Mr. Steele says in all about 27, and he says that, with two exceptions, the spoiled papers were in favour of Mr. Regan.

In reply to an inquiry from your Board, Mr. Steele, in his letter of the 5th April, No. 12,571, states, "That in some of the voting papers on both sides there appeared erasures, in all of which cases he marked the papers, *nil*."

Mr. M'Crystal, in his letter of the 12th May, No. 17,542, says that the returning officer, when writing the above, knew he was stating a *falsification*.

In his letter of the 19th May, Mr. S. Steele gives the names of two voters whose votes for Mr. Otterson were lost, by reason of erasures, viz.:—

No. 32. James Cleary.

No. 58. Mary M'Guirk.

The voting papers of these voters were annexed to his letter of the 30th May. I have detached them for the purpose of this inquiry, and they are now on the minutes. As stated in your letter on the 1st June to the returning officer, "There is no erasure on the paper of Mary M'Guirk, but the paper is defaced by a pen having been passed over it."

The voting paper of James Cleary was handed to Mr. Steele, and in reply to Mr. M'Crystal, he says, he would not swear the initials on it were for Regan on the day of the scrutiny.

At page 15 you will find Mr. M'Crystal's evidence on the subject of this voting paper. He swears he was present at the scrutiny; that he saw the vote of James Cleary produced, and had it in his hand; that the initials on it were opposite Regan's name, not opposite Otterson's name.

James Cleary, the voter; Francis M'Williams, Hugh Sheills, and Margaret Cleary, swear that the paper was properly filled for Regan.

In reply to this evidence, Mr. Steele swears that the paper came to him along with others; that there was no change or alteration of any kind made in it while it was in his custody, but he admits his clerk had access occasionally to his office.

Mr. Steele's letters to your Board on the subject of these as well as the other spoiled papers, were, I think, of a misleading character, and did not convey clearly the facts relating to them.

The evidence of James Hutchinson, who was employed by his father to assist in collecting the voting papers, will explain the manner in which the voting papers were spoiled during the course of the election.

At page 13 he states that after he had collected a good many of the papers he went to Mr. Otterson's, one of the candidates, had his dinner and his tea there, and remained for more than an hour.

It appears that while he was in the house, he gave the voting papers to a man named Lawrence Higgins, who took them into another apartment, and was in a position to do what he liked with them.

He says that when he got home he found the papers were not right, that they had been altered, and he then began to make them right by erasing the initials which had been improperly placed on them.

One of the spoiled papers, No. 26, was handed to the witness, and he states the alterations he made were of the same nature as that on the paper before him.

Five of the parties whose votes were spoiled gave evidence to the effect, that their votes were properly filled for Regan; and the solicitor for Mr. Regan stated that the others were prepared to give similar evidence if necessary. I forward a letter I have had from him on the subject.

I may mention that Mr. Steele, the returning officer, has held his present position for a great many years, and he has discharged his duties fairly and efficiently.

On the occasion of this election there seems to have been a good deal of excitement and personal feeling. Mr. Steele is now an old man, and consequently less equal to deal with an emergency of this kind.

## CARNAMONEY DIVISION.

With respect to Mr. Lewis Smith's complaints respecting the election for the Carnamoney Division, he and his solicitor appeared before me, and when I explained to them the nature of my instructions, they said that unless the inquiry was extended into a general scrutiny of all the votes given at the March election they would retire.

I declined to do this, and they then left the room; so, of course, the inquiry respecting the election for this division could not be proceeded with.

The Local Government Board.

I have, &c.  
(signed) R. Hamilton.

## Enclosures in No. 1.

MINUTES OF INQUIRY held at MAGHERAFELT WORKHOUSE, on Friday, 13th July 1883, into the manner in which the ELECTION of a GUARDIAN for the SALTERSTOWN ELECTORAL DIVISION was conducted in March last.

JOHN STEELE, being sworn, states: I am returning officer for the Magherafelt Union, and conducted the election of a guardian for the Division of Salterstown in March last. There were two candidates, Mr. Whan and Mr. Larkin.

The police could not be spared for the distribution of the voting papers, therefore I applied to the guardians for the necessary assistance, and they gave me permission to employ the rate collector and other respectable people.

I employed Mr. Henry Agnew, one of the poor rate collectors, to distribute and collect the voting papers in that division.

The papers were distributed on the 19th and 20th of March, and were collected on 22nd and 23rd.

There was a scrutiny of the papers on the 27th, and votes were objected to on both sides.

The result of the voting was 105 for each candidate, a tie.

In the course of the scrutiny, the vote of Mr. John M'Oscear was objected to on the ground he was not the rated occupier. I asked the collector had he any entry in his collecting book? He said "No, nothing more than that the rate was paid." I don't remember asking him who had paid the rate to him; he said the rate was paid, and nothing more. I knew that John M'Oscear was not the voter, or, in other words, that he was not the person rated. I then examined the list of voters for the previous year, and I found that the voting paper for the same holding had been signed by a "Jenny M'Oscear," and on those grounds I considered it my duty to disallow the vote. There was a revision of the premises held by the M'Oscears, made in February 1883. John M'Oscear was by it rated for a valuation of 22 £ odd, and Felix M'Oscear, one of the family, for an 8 £ valuation. I was not aware of this revision at the scrutiny, and if I had known of it at that time I would have allowed the votes, two.

To Solicitor for Mr. Larkin.] I prepared the usual lists of voters for the division, with the assistance of the collector. The list is now before me. I also have before me the list of 1882. In the list of 1883 John M'Oscear's name appears as the rated occupier for a valuation of 30 £. In the list of 1882 the same name and valuation appears. To the best of my knowledge I should think that the same name appears in the list of the preceding four years. I was not acquainted with John M'Oscear. The collector told me there was no change in the collecting book. I distinctly swear the collector did not tell me that the rate had been paid to him by John M'Oscear, the man who claimed to vote; he stated that the rates had been paid by a person named John M'Oscear. I did not ask him if John M'Oscear was the name in his books. I cannot swear that I knew that John M'Oscear was dead before the scrutiny; I had heard of it then. There was no note of the revision referred to by me in the rate book previous to February 1883. I produce the rate book to show that the revision took place in 1883. I swear the note in the rate book of the revision was not there when I disallowed the vote.

I deny I ever stated, when disallowing John M'Oscear's vote, that it was in consequence of Mr. Larkin getting the votes of Christiana Bergin and William Morgan disallowed, both of the same townland.

M'Oscear.]

[*Mr Oscar.*] The name of Rose Anne Donaghy appears on the list of 1883 as an occupier of a valuation of 8*l.*, and entitled to one vote. Her vote was marked nil, and I have no note or memorandum of her attending at my office on the 22nd March; I cannot swear she did not attend at my office, but I have no recollection of her doing so. I cannot swear that she produced a soiled voting paper before me which had been served on John M'Williams in mistake, and who had spoiled it, and requested a duplicate paper to fill up for Mr. Larkin.

If Rose Anne Donaghy had been entitled to a new voting paper I would have given her one.

I have referred to the list of 1883, and I cannot find on it the name of Margaret Adams, but the name of Hugh Adams is on it. I have no recollection of an objection having been made to his vote. The name in the rate book is Robert Adams. This name was altered to Hugh at the revision which was made in February, the same time that the M'Osca revision was made. Hugh Adams voted, and gave his vote for Mr. Whan. I have no recollection of the vote having been objected to by Mr. Larkin.

The voting papers were delivered on the 24th. Some of the papers were sent to me by post, not many; I made no objection to receiving them if they arrived within the proper time.

Arch. Clerk was supplied with a voting paper, No. 56. His valuation appears to be 3*l.* 15*s.* He is also rated as immediate lessor on a valuation of 10*s.* He voted on the 3*l.* 15*s.*, as I considered him to be a ratepayer, and entitled to vote. His vote was recorded for Mr. Whan.

I see the name of James M'Kee on the rate book. His holding is valued at 20*l.* 5*s.* He was allowed two votes. A valuation of 10*s.* is for a cottier, for which he is the immediate lessor. I saw I had made a mistake in giving him two votes. At the supplemental election which has lately taken place I only gave him one vote.

[*To Mr. Whan.*] I remember an objection having been made at the scrutiny to the vote of John M'Osca, but I do not recollect the particulars of it. After the objection I referred to Mr. Agnew, the collector; he told me he had no memorandum on the subject.

In the case of Hugh Adams I could not say a poor rate receipt was produced in the name of Hugh. I allowed the vote because I was satisfied it was correct.

I know the name of James Badgers; he is rated on a valuation of about 50*l.* He had two votes in March election, and in the election of 1882 he had three votes. The case is a similar one to that of M'Kee, already given in evidence.

The name of Benjamin Whan appears on the book, valued at 48*l.* He got two votes in 1883, and in 1882 he got three votes on a valuation of 5*l.* His case is identically the same as James Badgers.

I have the name of Mary Anne Shepherd on the list, valued at 18*l.*; she is entitled to one vote, and it is recorded for Mr. Larkin.

The vote of Charles Shuster was disallowed because it was not filled.

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

(signed) *John Steele.*

**HENRY AGNEW** having been duly sworn, states, I am one of the rate collectors of Magherafelt Union.

I was employed by the returning officer to distribute and collect the voting papers at the election of a guardian for the Salterstown Division in March last. I am county cess collector as well as poor rate collector, and at the time of the election I had to go to the assizes in Derry, and I had to employ an assistant to do the election duty. His name was the same as mine; I got the lists and voting papers from Mr. Steele, and I gave them to him. I informed Mr. Steele I had to employ this person. I had employed him before, and he did the work very perfectly. This young man and his assistant distributed and collected all the voting papers in the division, and I did nothing.

[*To Collector for Mr. Larkin.*] I have my collecting books with me. I see the name of John M'Osca in my book for a valuation of 30*l.* 10*s.* There has been no change for the last four years in the rating. The rates were paid to me by John M'Osca since I became collector. I am acquainted with him. I did consider he was the owner of the holding, as he paid me the rates.

I attended the scrutiny of the votes for the division. I remember the objection made to John M'Osca's vote. I believe Mr. Steele asked me if I had any observations on the face of my collecting book. I said I had not; that John M'Osca was rated as the occupier. As well as I can recollect, he asked me who paid me the rates. I said in reply, it was John M'Osca, and that the same man had paid me for four years; this conversation occurred at the scrutiny. I swear positively that I said, in hearing of Mr. Steele, as I was sitting beside him, that John M'Osca was the person who had paid me the rates for the last four years.

To

To Mr. Whan.] I consider myself responsible for the distribution and collection of the voting papers. I had every confidence in the young man I employed. I gave up the papers myself to Mr. Steele. My assistant had liberty to employ an assistant if necessary, and he tells me he did so; the name of the assistant, I am informed by him, was Felix O'Neill.

The papers were tied up when given to me by Henry Agnew, and I swear they were never unsealed until I gave them to Mr. Steele.

(signed) *Henry Agnew.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

Witness:—*E. M. Gushin.*

To Solicitor.] JAMES McCUNNY, farmer. I am a ratepayer for the Salterstown Division; I attended the scrutiny of the votes of the Salterstown Division in March. I was present when John M'Osar's vote was objected to by Mr. Whan. Mr. Steele asked Agnew, the collector, some questions about the case. He asked whose name was in the rate-book, Agnew said, John M'Osar. Mr. Steele then went out and returned again, and said his hands were tied, and he must object. Agnew stated that it was John M'Osar who had paid him the rates since he began to collect. He stated this plain, and Mr. Steele must have heard him, as it was said in a loud tone. Mr. Steele said there were objections to Mr. Whan's voters, and that his hands were tied.

To Mr. Steele.] I could not swear whether Mr. Agnew was in the room when the last remark was made.

(signed) *James M. Cardy.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

To Solicitor for Mr. Larkin.] SAMUEL McMMASTER. I am a ratepayer of the Salterstown Division, and I attended the scrutiny of votes in March last. I remember the vote of John M'Osar having been objected to; I heard Mr. Steele ask Agnew, the collector, if the name was in the rate-book. Agnew replied it was. Mr. Steele then left the room; when he came back he made some remarks that there had been some votes cast off for Mr. Whan, and that he would throw this one off also, or words to that effect. I heard Agnew state that John M'Osar had paid him the rates since he began to collect. I would think Mr. Steele must have heard him say this.

(signed) *Samuel McMaster.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

Witness:—*John Steele.*

JAMES LARKEIN, being sworn. I was one of the Candidates for the Salterstown Electoral Division at the election in March last. I was present at the scrutiny of votes. I heard Mr. Whan object to John M'Osar's vote, and I heard Mr. Whan state that his name was not changed in the Salter's office. I heard Mr. Steele ask the collector who had paid him the rates, and in reply he said John M'Osar had paid him the rate since he came into office.

Mr. Steele was absent from the room for about ten minutes, and when he returned I heard him say, looking over at me, "You have had a good many of Mr. Whan's votes thrown off, and I will not this vote of John M'Osar."

I am acquainted with a woman named Rose Anne Donaghy of Ballinderry; she is a voter of the division. I enquire of Mr. Steele, who was in the board room with her on Thursday the 22nd March, and I asked Mr. Steele for a duplicate of a spoiled paper. I don't remember if she had the spoiled paper with her. I am not sure whether she had the spoiled paper. Mr. Steele refused to give her the paper.

I attended again on Monday, the 26th, with Rose Anne Donaghy, for the purpose of getting a new voting paper. Her request was refused on both occasions.

(signed) *James Larkin.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

Witness:—*J. Steele.*

HENRY AGNEW, being sworn. I was employed by Collector Agnew to distribute and collect the voting papers at the March election of a guardian for the Salterstown Division. I left the voting paper for Rose Anne Donaghy by mistake at the house of John M'Williams; I was not acquainted personally with the people; people belonging to both candidates were following me when I was distributing the papers. I asked some of them what house are we going to now, they said Donaghy's and M'Williams. I went to M'Williams first and thought it was Donaghy's, as that name was mentioned first, and I left Donaghy's voting paper there. I then went to Donaghy's house, and found out

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the mistake I had made. I immediately went back to McWilliams, and when I got there I found that Donaghy's paper had been filled at McWilliams' house. I left McWilliams' own paper at his house, and took Donaghy's paper to her. It had been filled, and was useless for her vote. Mr. Whan was present when the mistake was made, and said he would hold me responsible for it. I did not inform the returning officer of the mistake I had made. I told Mr. Agnew when the papers were collected, about it.

(signed) *Henry Agnew.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

Witness:—*John Steele.*

**ROSE ANNE DONAGHY**, being duly sworn. I am a ratepayer for the Salterstown Division; I remember getting a voting paper at the election in the month of March last. The paper had been left by the officer. I remember Mr. Agnew bringing the paper to me from McWilliams' house. I was told the paper had been spoiled at McWilliams. The paper remained at my house until it was called for by the person who collected the votes. It was taken from me before the 22nd March. I came to the workhouse on the 22nd, and I saw Mr. Steele. I told him that my paper had been given to McWilliams, who had filled it. I asked for a new paper, and told him (Mr. Steele) I intended to give my vote for Mr. Larkin; he said there was no paper to give. I understood this to be a refusal. I went again to Mr. Steele on the 26th to record my vote, but I was unable to do so.

(signed) *Rose Anne Donaghy.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

Witness:—*R. M'Gachin.*

**ROBERT BAXTER**, sworn. I am a voter of the Salterstown Electoral Division; I received a voting paper for the March election. I did not return my voting paper; I kept it. I had promised to vote for Mr. Larkin. I know the public-house of Patrick Magnera. I had no intention of voting for either of the candidates. I knew that if my voting paper had been destroyed I could obtain another, and Mr. Whan told me something to this effect, though I was aware of it before.

(signed) *Robert Baxter.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

Witness:—*John Steele.*

**FELIX O'NEILL**, sworn. Am a farmer; was employed in the collection of the voting papers at the March election of a guardian in the Salterstown Division. I collected the voting paper at Mrs. Donaghy's house. I had some conversation with her about it. She told me that the wrong paper had been sent to her, and that it was spoiled; she did not say anything to me about getting another paper. I lifted the paper and placed it along with the others. I certainly did not interfere or alter any of the papers collected by me.

To Mr. *Whan*, I am a farmer; I do not hold any land in my own name. I occasionally work as a labourer. I don't remember collecting the vote of Charles Shuter, but I collected the papers in the townland in which he lives, and I am responsible for delivering them in the condition in which they were handed to me. I also collected the papers in the townland of Ballymontrea. I believe I got a paper from Mary Anne Shepherd.

The paper was handed to me, and the vote appears to have been recorded for Mr. Larkin.

**MARGARET SHEPHERD**, sworn. I am son of Mary Anne Shepherd, who is entitled to vote. She is over 80 years of age, and she is not able to attend here. That is not her writing on the voting paper now before you. I gave her voting paper out of my own hand to Felix O'Neill without being filled for any of the candidates, just in the same way as it was got from the person who left it.

I have three brothers; one brother resides in the house along with me. It was Agnew who left the paper. I was not in the house when it was left, it was late. My mother did not wish for any of the candidates. I gave it clean into Felix O'Neill's hand. I did not look at the face of the voting paper when I got it from my mother until I gave it to O'Neill.

The paper was given to O'Neill about 8 o'clock; I saw it about 10 minutes before he came in. I saw the face of it; there was no writing on it.

**CHARLES SHUTER**, sworn. The voting paper handed to me was signed by me for B. Whan, and no other candidate. It was signed by my sister, not by myself. My sister gave the paper to Felix O'Neill.

MARGARET

MARGARET SHUTER, sworn. I filled the voting paper for my brother. He told me to do so. It was initialised for P. W. Whan, and no other. I handed it to a man who said his name was Felix O'Neill.

My brother was in bed, and that is why he did not fill it.

FELIX O'NEILL (examination continued). I have heard the evidence of Andrew Shepherd, Charles Shuter, and his sister. I swear positively that I gave up the papers to Mr. Agnew, the man who employed me, and that no alteration was made in the papers while with me.

(signed) *Felix O'Neill.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

Witness: — *John Steele.*

HENRY AGNEW, sworn. I was sitting near Mr. Steele during the scrutiny of the votes in March last, and I did not hear him, as far as my memory goes, say that he would disallow Mr. Oscar's votes because certain votes had been disallowed for Mr. Whan.

I think I was present when Charles Diamond's vote was objected to. I was out of the room occasionally. I heard P. McCurdy give his evidence, and I heard Samuel McMaster and J. Larkin. I am not prepared to contradict the evidence of these witnesses.

BENJAMIN WHAN, duly sworn, states: I was a candidate at the March election of a guardian for the Salterstown Electoral Division. I was present at the scrutiny. I recollect when Mr. Steele left the room and returned to it. I swear positively he did not make the statement attributed to him by certain witnesses respecting the disallowing of M' Oscar's vote. At the time Mr. Steele asked Mr. Agnew if he had any interest in Oscar's case, he said not. Mr. Steele further asked him who paid him these rates; he said he was paid in the name of John M' Oscar, and he knew no more.

I heard Mr. McCurdy, Mr. Larkin, Mr. McMaster, and Mr. Agnew examined, and I heard them state what they heard Mr. Steele say, to the effect he had disallowed Oscar's votes, because he had disallowed votes on the other side, or words to that effect. He could not at that time have used the words. Mr. Steele could not have used the words without my hearing them from the time the scrutiny commenced until it closed. I was present the whole time; I called upon the returning officer to produce the voting papers of Mary Anne Shepherd and Charles Shuter. My object in doing so was to ascertain how these votes came into this house. Charles Shuter and Mrs. Shepherd told me, in the Shuter case, it was signed for myself alone, and in Shepherd's case, that the paper was clean when returned. I wanted to bring the matter before the Local Government Board, but I am unable to say how the papers were changed; I suspect Felix O'Neill tampered with the papers. He had been employed by a brother of one of the candidates, but I have no proof. More or less, the above is the only ground I have for my suspicions.

(signed) *Benjamin Whan.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

ANDREW DUFF, duly sworn. I was present during the scrutiny of the votes of the March election of the Salterstown Division, and I was present here during the inquiry to-day. I heard the evidence of James Larkin, James McCurdy, and Samuel McMaster. I heard them swear that they heard Mr. Steele make use of an expression to the effect, that he would disallow Oscar's vote, because he had disallowed votes on the other side. I did not hear Mr. Steele make use of those words, but I will repeat the words he did make use of, as well as I can remember. He asked the rate collector whose name was on the rate-book in Mr. Oscar's case. In reply, collector said the rates had been paid in the name of John M' Oscar, from the time he had got the books, and he knew nothing more about it.

Mr. Steele then left the room; when he came back he said his hands were tied, and that he would rule the case in the same manner as he had ruled in other similar cases.

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

13 July 1883.

This closed the inquiry into the Salterstown Division; and it was arranged to proceed with inquiry into the Carrickmoney and Iniscairn Divisions on the next day.

Saturday, 14 July 1883.

MINUTES of INQUIRY into the manner in which the ELECTION of a GUARDIAN for the INISCARN DIVISION of the MAGHERAFELT UNION was conducted; and into Charges against the Returning Officer; also as to how a Number of the Voting Papers were spoiled in the course of the Election.

JOHN STEELE, being sworn. I am returning officer, and conducted the election of a guardian for the Iniscarn Division of Magherafelt Union in March last. The voting papers were issued on 19th March and following day. They were collected on the 21st and following day, if necessary. I was unable to obtain the services of the police. I therefore had to employ civilians.

I employed Samuel Hutchinson, who had formerly been a rate collector.

He returned the papers to me on the 24th March.

There was a scrutiny of the papers. The candidates and several others were present. It was on the 26th.

The result of the election was declared by me, as follows:—

Regan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
Otterson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79

In the course of the scrutiny it appeared a large number of the voting papers had been tampered with, and in consequence were disallowed. I should say about 27. With two exceptions, the papers spoiled were in favour of Mr. Regan.

The statement contained in my letter of the 5th April to the Local Government Board is correct.

To the Solicitor for Mr. Regan.] The voting papers, No. 32 and 58 (see pp. 11, 12), which were attached to Mr. Steele's letter of the 30th May, were handed to solicitor for cross-examination.

Mary McGurk is included in the list of voters on the ground that she is the rated occupier, and paid the rates. She is not rated in the rate-book. I got the information about her from the collector at the time I made out the list. I have no recollection of the vote having been polled on the ground that she was not the rated occupier.

The Voting Paper, No. 32, handed to Mr. Steele. I will not swear that the initials on that paper were for Mr. Regan on the day of the scrutiny, and that the erasures which appear opposite to Regan's name were made since the day of the scrutiny. As far as I knew, I considered my reply to the Local Government Board respecting the spoiled papers was a correct one; although there were 25 polled on Mr. Regan's side, and only two on Mr. Otterson's side.

The statement contained in my letter of the 10th April to the Local Government Board is a correct one. I obtained the information about Jonny Hutchinson from the father, and also from the son. They both told me the same story. This must have been after I declared the result of the election.

I swear that neither of the Hutchinsons told me how the papers had been spoiled; in fact I did not ask them.

I have no recollection of ever having said to either of the Hutchinsons, to say as little as possible about the matter.

If they were to state on oath that they had told all about the manner in which the papers were spoiled, I would contradict them.

I kept the voting papers locked up in my own office from the day of the scrutiny up to the 5th April. No one had access to them except the boy who is employed by me.

To Solicitor for Mr. Otterson.] I am not aware that four other votes were spoiled for Mr. Otterson besides the two referred to in evidence.

Susan Moran's vote was polled, but not on account of the paper having been spoiled. All the papers which were spoiled for Mr. Regan did not appear to be spoiled in the same way as the two which were spoiled for Otterson, but one of Otterson's votes is much the same, and the number of that one is 32, referred to in my evidence.

Sworn before me, R. Hamilton.

(signed) John Steele.

Witness:—R. McGuckin.

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 32.—James Cleary.

## Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Person Nominated as Candidate for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of such Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of such Person Nominated.	Name of Nominee of such Candidate.	Residence of Nominee.
	Bernard Regan	Cochrane	Farmer	Alexander Payne	Cochrane
J. C. - - -	Charles O'Brien	Iniscaern	Farmer	John Bisset	Longfield

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—William Hugh Shields.

(signed) *James x Cleary,*  
mark  
Longfield.

If the Voter cannot write, he must make his Mark, and his name must be written in full by a Witness, whose signature must follow, and by whom the Voter's initials must be placed opposite to the name of the Candidate for whom the Voter intends to vote. Where the Voter cannot write, and the Voting Paper is signed by a Mark, the place for the Signature should be filled thus:—

his  
Michael x Murdoch.  
mark

Witness, Lawrence McCormick.

When a Proxy votes, he is to state, under his signature, in his own handwriting, for whom he is Proxy, as:—David O'Callaghan for Timothy Geoghegan.

If initials be placed opposite to the names of more Candidates than the Number of Guardians to be elected for the Division, or if the Voting Paper be not signed, or be not attested when attestation is required, the Votes will be lost.

This paper must be carefully preserved, as a second cannot, in any case, be issued; and it must be ready for delivery to the Collector of Votes, who will have it, and who will call for it on the day next but one after it is left. If the Voting Paper be not ready for the Collector of Votes when he calls for it, the vote will be lost.

NO OTHER PERSON THAN THE COLLECTOR OF VOTES IS TO RECEIVE THIS PAPER; and if tendered to the Collector at any other place than the house at which it was left by him, it must be rejected.

No other Voting Paper than that issued by the Returning Officer can be received by him.

If any person shall knowingly and fraudulently, and with the intent of giving a greater number of Votes than he is by law entitled to give, tender or forward to the Returning Officer a false statement of the grounds on which he claims to vote or give additional votes; or shall forge, falsify, or knowingly and fraudulently alter after signature, any paper containing a statement of Claim to vote, Proxy, Nomination, or vote for the Election of Guardians, or refusal to serve the Office of Guardian; or shall conspire to forge, falsify, or so alter any such Paper; or shall knowingly tender or forward to the proper Officer any such Paper forged, falsified, or so altered, as aforesaid; or shall wilfully suppress, carry off, deface or deface any statement of Claim to vote, Proxy, or Nomination of a Candidate for the Office of Guardian, after the same shall be duly signed; or shall in like manner suppress, carry off, destroy, or deface any Voting Paper, after the same shall have been issued by the Returning Officer; the person so offending is liable to a Penalty of Ten Pounds, recoverable by distress and sale of the offender's goods, or to imprisonment for three months, on complaint and conviction before two Justices of the Peace.—(6 & 7 Vict. c. 52, s. 25, and 14 & 15 Vict. c. 53, s. 22.)

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 53.—Mary McGurk.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscarn Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to vote.	Name of Person Nominated as Candidate for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of such Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
	Bernard Regan -	Cochrane -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Cochrane.
M. M.G. - -	Charles O'Herons -	Iniscarn -	Farmer -	John Houston -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Daniel O'Herons,*(signed) *Mary x McGurk,*  
mark

Iniscarn.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

SAMUEL HUTCHINSON, being duly sworn. I was formerly a poor rate collector. I was employed by Mr. Steele to distribute the voting papers at the election of a guardian for the Iniscarn Division in March last. I had two days for distribution of the papers, and two days for lifting them. I was unable to do it all myself. I employed my sons to assist me, no one else; between us we distributed and collected all the papers in that division.

I was not aware that a number of the voting papers had been spoiled until after the election.

To *Solicitor for Mr. Regan.*] I heard of this the day of the scrutiny. I was not present at the scrutiny. I cannot tell who told me about the spoiled papers. I did not, at that time inquire from my son if he knew anything about the spoiled papers, but I did a few days afterwards. About 10 days afterwards I had a letter from Mr. Steele about this. I came into Magherafelt, and told Mr. Steele I could not give him the information he wanted. I then sent my son to him. I did not see Mr. Steele since, until this day.

Mr. Steele never said to me to say as little as possible about the spoiled papers.

I am acquainted with Mr. Patrick McCrystal and Mr. Regan, who I see before me now. I remember having had an interview with them in my own house. I don't remember saying to them that Mr. Steele had said either to me or to my son, to say as little as possible about the spoiled papers; I will not swear that I did not say words to that effect.

He (Mr. Steele) never said the words in my presence.

I told Mr. McCrystal that I suspected a certain person for spoiling the papers, but I had no proof.

I was in Kast's public-house on the day I brought the voting papers to Mr. Steele. A man named Laurence Higgins asked me to show him the voting papers. I refused to show them. He asked again in another public-house (Booth's) to see the papers. He said he wanted to correct the voting papers of James Nesbitt, which he said was not right. I positively swear I did not let him see the papers, and that no man saw them until I handed them to the returning officer.

(signed) *Samuel Hutchinson.*Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*Present:—*John Steele.*

JAMES HUTCHINSON, being duly sworn. I was employed by my father to assist in the distribution and collection of the voting papers at the election of a guardian for the Iniscairn Division.

To *Solicitor for Mr. Regan.*] I remembered the evening I lifted the papers. I was only occupied one day in collecting them. I collected the upper part of the division. I collected for the townlands of Boomagh, Longfield, Brockagh, and Gortnahook. I called at the house of Mr. Otterson (one of the candidates); I had not all the papers collected at the time I called. I went there for his voting papers. I could not say at what hour I called. I took tea there, and I also took my dinner there. I don't think I was an hour there; the tea was after the dinner. I was not an hour and a-half there. I took my dinner in the room; Mr. Otterson was there, and his sisters were there. There might be somebody else, but I don't remember.

I had collected a good many of the papers when I went into Mr. Otterson's house; these were not in my possession during the whole time I was there. I gave them to Laurence Higgins, who was in the house, but who was not at the dinner meal with me. He had the papers in his possession during the time I was eating my dinner, and he was in a different room, and, I suppose, he was in a position to do what he liked with the voting papers during the time he had them.

To *Solicitor.*] It is a considerable distance from Mr. Otterson's house to where I live.

Higgins gave me back the voting papers. I could not say if the papers were in the same condition when I got them back from him as when I gave them to him, because I did not look at them. I don't think the papers were tied up when I gave them to Laurence Higgins.

I don't remember a man named Hughes showing me his paper open, and stating it was all right. I do remember some one giving me a paper and stating it was for Regan, but I don't remember the name.

It was after dark when I got home, but it was not very late. I examined or looked at the papers after I got home. I found that some of them were not right; that they had been altered; I could not say how many papers were altered. I did try to make some of the papers right. I did so by erasing the initials which had been improperly placed on them. When I got home I found that some of the votes which had been given for Regan had been changed to Otterson.

I was aware that Hugh Steele was a witness for Regan, and Francis McWilliams was also a witness for him, and that the votes witnessed by these parties were in favour of Regan.

The voting paper, No. 26\* is now before me. I see the erasure on that paper. The alterations I made on the papers were of the same nature as that before me on this voting paper.

I gave the papers to my father the same night as I collected them. I did not, at that time, tell him what had happened to the papers. I could not say if I ever told him.

I told Mr. Steele what had happened to the papers. I told him in substance what I have told you. It was after my father sent me to him that I told him.

I told him that Laurence Higgins had had the papers in his possession. I told him that I believed alterations had been made in some of the papers, but that I did not know by whom. I don't remember what Mr. Steele said to me.

To *Solicitor for Mr. Otterson.*] I did not look at the voting papers before I went into Mr. Otterson's house, nor did I do so until I went home. I did not see Laurence Higgins doing anything to the papers. I can't say how long he had them; the papers might have been spoiled by the voters themselves.

I remember some of the voters saying they had spoiled the papers, but I could not say who the parties are.

The papers I altered had initials opposite the name of each of the candidates, and I tried to make them right.

To *Solicitor for Mr. Regan.*] I believe it was a woman who told me that her paper had been spoiled.

(signed) *James Hutchinson.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

## PAPERS RELATING TO

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 25.—Daniel Fullin.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscairn Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for one Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Person Nominated as Candidate for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominee of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominee.
D. F. - - -	Bernard Regan -	Coolnagh - - -	Farmer - - -	Alexander Page -	Coolnagh.
	Charles Otterson -	Iniscairn - - -	Farmer - - -	John Heslin -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—Hugh Sheils,

(signed) *Daniel x Fullin,*  
his  
mark.  
Longfield.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Papers, see p. 11.]

JAMES CLEARY, sworn. I am voter for the Iniscairn Division. I voted at the late election, and gave my vote for Bernard Regan. It was filled by Francis M'Williams, and I put my mark to it where he directed me. I can't write, but I can read print.

Sworn before me, R. Hamilton.

FRANCIS M'WILLIAMS, sworn. I reside at Ballymacpherson. I filled the paper now handed to me for James Cleary, and he put his mark to it in my presence. The initials were put opposite Regan's name. None were put by me opposite to Otterson's name. The initials which appear there are not in my handwriting.

To Solicitor.] The paper was filled immediately after it was left at the house.

(signed) *Francis M'Williams.*

Sworn before me, R. Hamilton.

HUGH SHEILS:—My father is a voter for Iniscairn Division. I see my name to the voting paper. I saw M'Williams put Cleary's initials on the voting paper before me, 32. The initials were placed opposite Regan's name in my presence.

The initials before Otterson's name were not put by M'Williams.

Sworn before me, R. Hamilton.

MARGARET CLEARY, of Longfield. I am wife of James Cleary, a voter of Iniscairn Division. I remember M'Williams and Sheil's filling up my husband's voting paper. I remember the day it was taken up by the collector. I opened it a few hours before I gave it to him; no one had any opportunity of altering it, and it was filled properly for Bernard Regan.

Sworn before me, R. Hamilton.

PATRICK MC CRYSTAL, being sworn. I am a poor law guardian for the Magherafelt Union. I attended at the scrutiny of the votes of the Iniscarn Division on Monday the 26th March.

I saw the vote of James Cleary, No. 32, produced at the scrutiny, and I had it in my hand. The paper I had in my hand that day was for a voter named James Cleary, and the initials on it were opposite to Mr. Regan's name and not opposite to Mr. Otterson's name, as on the paper now before me. There is only one voter of the name of James Cleary in the division. The initials opposite to the name of Bernard Regan appeared to be in the same handwriting as the name of the voter on the paper.

(signed) *Patrick M. Crystal.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

THOS. STEELE, already sworn. Am returning officer. Have heard the evidence respecting James Cleary's vote. The paper came into me along with others, marked No. 32. There was no change or alteration of any kind made on this paper while it was in my custody. I swear this distinctly. The office door was locked while I was out, but my clerk had access occasionally to the office.

(signed) *John Steele.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

JOHN HUGHES, of Boveagh. Am a voter for Iniscarn Division. I gave my vote at the March election for Bernard Regan. Francis M'Williams filled the paper for me.

To *Solicitor for Mr. Otterson.*] The paper was filled on the day I got it. I have eight children. There was no dirty mark on the paper when I handed it to the collector.

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 40.—John Hughes.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscarn Electoral Division.

Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Person against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominees of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominees.
J. H. - - -	Bernard Regan -	Cochrane - -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Cochrane.
	Charles Otterson -	Drumans - -	Farmer -	John Hughes -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above list against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Hugh Steele.*

(signed) *John x Hughes,*  
his  
mark.  
Boveagh.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

I filled the paper before me for John Hughes. I put his initials opposite Bernard Regan. The erasure now on the paper opposite Otterson's name was not there when I signed it.

(signed) *Francis M'Williams.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

DANIEL FULLER, sworn. I am a voter for the Iniscarn Division. I gave my vote to Bernard Regan. Francis McWilliams filled the paper for me; my wife gave the paper to the collector. I saw McWilliams fill it, and he said it is all right for Regan.

I am of firm opinion the paper was not altered by any member of my family.

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

FRANCIS M'WILLIAMS, already sworn. I filled the paper, No. 26, for Bernard Regan by direction of the voter, Daniel Fuller. The initials were put opposite Bernard Regan's name, and no mark was put opposite Otterson's name. The original initials I put on the paper have been erased, and fresh ones put in their place.

(signed) *Francis M'Williams.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

ANNE KELLY, sworn, states: I am a voter for the Iniscarn Electoral Division; I recorded my vote for Bernard Regan. I did not fill it myself. It was filled by Francis M'Williams. My nephew gave the paper to Hutchinson, and he opened and examined it.

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

ARTHUR DEVLIK, sworn. I am nephew to Anne Kelly, last witness. I gave her voting paper to Jenny Hutchinson. I examined it about ten minutes before I gave it to him. There was no mark or erasure opposite Otterson's name when I gave it to him. The initials were opposite to Regan's name.

The paper was filled the day it was left, and it remained three days before it was collected.

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

FRANCIS M'WILLIAMS, sworn. I filled the voting paper for Anne Kelly in favour of Bernard Regan, by her direction. The initials on the paper are not in my handwriting. The originals must have been erased. There was no mark placed by me opposite Otterson's name.

(signed) *Francis M'Williams.*

Sworn before me, *R. Hamilton.*

Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 143.—Anne Kelly.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscarn Electoral Division.

Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Person Nominated as Candidate for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of such Person Nominated.	Name of Nominee of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominee.
A. K. - - -	Bernard Regan -	Coolough - - -	Farmer - - -	Alexander Payne -	Coolough.
	Charles Otterson -	Iniscarn - - -	Farmer - - -	John Hessey -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Hugh Shields.*

(signed) *Anne x Kelly,*  
her  
mark  
Brackaghliagha.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## MAGHERAFELT UNION (ELECTION OF OFFICERS). 17

SINCLAIR SHEGOG, sworn. I am a voter for the Iniscaern Division. I filled the voting paper for Bernard Regan. I signed it myself. I put my initials opposite Bernard Regan's name. I did not put any mark opposite Otterson's name.

I think the initials now opposite Regan's name are not in my handwriting.

To Mr. Otterson's Solicitor.] I have a wife and three sons in the house with me.

I think the paper was lying in the house two days after it was filled before it was handed to the collector. I left it in a book, and told my daughter to give it to the collector when he called.

(signed) *Sinclair Shegog.*

Sworn before me, R. Hamilton.

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 136.—Sinclair Shegog.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Person nominated as Candidate for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
S. R. - -	Bernard Regan -	Coolnagh - -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Coolnagh.
	Charles Otterson -	Iniscaern - -	Farmer -	John Ernest -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

(signed) *Sinclair Shegog.*  
Buckaghilislea.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## CARNAMONEY DIVISION.

Mr. Lewis Smith and his solicitor having declined to proceed with the inquiry into the manner in which the election for the Carnamoney Division had been conducted, this closed the inquiry.

14 July 1883.

R. Hamilton.

— No. 2. —

Mr. M'Gurkis to Mr. R. Hamilton.

Division of Iniscaern.—Union of Magherafelt.

Sir,

Magherafelt, 14 July 1883.

Mr. Bernard Regan instructs me to say that he claims to be declared the elected guardian for this division, on the grounds that he has a majority of votes.

The following voters whose voting papers have been tampered with in the same manner as proved in John Hughes, Daniel Fullan, Sinclair Shegog, and Anne Kelly's cases, are in attendance to prove that they duly voted for Mr. Regan; and their respective voting papers having been tampered with, were disallowed by the returning officer on the scrutiny.

## PAPERS RELATING TO

The following are the numbers of the voting papers and names of the voters:

No.		No.	
78	Andrew Breen.	160	Joseph M'Guckin.
162	Thomas M'Guigan.	156	John Bradley.
168	James M'Guigan.	154	James M'Kenna.
146	John Kelly.	149	Charles Kelly.
88	Edward Hogan.	159	John Moran.
77	Patrick M'Bride.	139	Bridget Boyle.
144	James Hogan.	137	Denis Kelly.
170	John Kane.	140	John Sheils.
171	Richard Carr.	150	Robert Sheils.
164	Patrick Murray.	28	John Higgins.
157	Francis M'Creehan.		

The returning officer gave as the result of his scrutiny, Regan, 58, and Otterson, 79.

If Regan is allowed the 25 votes which have been proved to have been tampered with, it would leave the number of his votes at 83, and thus give him a majority of four votes over Otterson.

Yours, &c.

R. Hamilton, Esq.

(signed) *Robert M'Guckin.*

Enclosures in No. 2.

Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 78.—Andrew Breen.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscairn Electoral Division.

Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Person for whom he intends to vote.	Name of Person Nominated as Candidate for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of such Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of such Person Nominated.	Name of Nominees of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominees.
A. B.	Bernard Regan -	Cochrane -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Cochrane.
	Charles Otterson -	Iniscairn -	Farmer -	John Heenan -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—Francis M'Williams.

(signed) *Andrew x Breen,*

his  
mark  
Gortahurk.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 152.—Thomas M'Guigan.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscarn Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Names of Nominees of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominees.
T. M'G. - -	Bernard Regan -	Coolough - -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Coolough
	Charles O'Loane -	Iniscau - -	Farmer -	John Henson -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

(signed) *Thomas M'Guigan,  
Brackaghlinlea.*

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 168.—James M'Guigan.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscarn Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Names of Nominees of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominees.
J. M'G. - -	Bernard Regan -	Coolough - -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Coolough.
	Charles O'Loane -	Iniscau - -	Farmer -	John Henson -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—Hugh Shiels. (signed) *James x M'Guigan,  
mark*  
*Brackaghlinlea.*

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## PAPERS RELATING TO

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 146.—John Kelly.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
J. K. - - -	Barney Regan - - -	Coolnagh - - -	Farmer - - -	Alexander Payne - - -	Coolnagh.
	Charles Ottaman - - -	Iniscaern - - -	Farmer - - -	John Hogan - - -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Hugh Shields.*(signed) *John x Kelly,*  
his  
mark.  
Brackaghblisles.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 88.—Edward Hogan.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for one Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
E. H. - - -	Barney Regan - - -	Coolnagh - - -	Farmer - - -	Alexander Payne - - -	Coolnagh.
	Charles Ottaman - - -	Iniscaern - - -	Farmer - - -	John Hogan - - -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Francis M<sup>W</sup> Williams.*(signed) *Edward x Hogan,*  
his  
mark.  
Keenagh.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 77.—Patrick M'Bride.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Person Nominated as Candidate for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of such Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of such Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of such Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
P. M'B. - -	Bernard Hogan -	Coolnagh -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Coolnagh.
	Charles O'Brien -	Iniscaern -	Farmer -	John Hessey -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—Hugh Shields. (signed) Patrick x M'Bride, his mark Gortahurk.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 144.—James Hogan.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Person Nominated as Candidate for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of such Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of such Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of such Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
J. H. - -	Bernard Hogan -	Coolnagh -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Coolnagh.
	Charles O'Brien -	Iniscaern -	Farmer -	John Hessey -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—Hugh Shields. (signed) James x Hogan, his mark Brackaghillslea.

[For instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 170.—John Kane.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
J. K. - - -	Bernard Regan -	Coolbaugh - -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Coolbaugh.
	Charles Otterton -	Iniscaern - -	Farmer -	John Hassan -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—Hugh Shields.

(signed) *John x Kane,*  
his  
mark  
Brackaghliston.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 171.—Richard Carr.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
R. C. - - -	Bernard Regan -	Coolbaugh - -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Coolbaugh.
	Charles Otterton -	Iniscaern - -	Farmer -	John Hassan -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—Hugh Shields.

(signed) *Richard x Carr,*  
his  
mark  
Brackaghliston.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 164.—Patrick Murray.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscarn Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
P. M. - -	Bernard Regan -	Cochrane -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Cochrane.
	Charles O'Brien -	Iniscaun -	Farmer -	John Heslin -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

(signed) *Patrick Murray,*  
Brackaghlinlea.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 157.—Francis M'Creaser.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscarn Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
F. M.C. - -	Bernard Regan -	Cochrane -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Cochrane.
	Charles O'Brien -	Iniscaun -	Farmer -	John Heslin -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Francis M'Creaser,* *his*  
*mark*  
(signed) *Francis x M'Creaser,*  
Brackaghlinlea.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 160.—Joseph McGuckin.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Votes against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominees of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominees.
J. M. C. - - -	Bernard Beggs - Charles O'Donnell -	Coolnrough - Iniscaern -	Farmer - Farmer -	Alexander Payne - John Hessen -	Coolnrough. Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—Hugh Shiels.

(signed) *Joseph x McGuckin,*  
mark  
Brackaghlinlea.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 156.—John Bradley.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Votes against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominees of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominees.
J. B. - - -	Bernard Beggs - Charles O'Donnell -	Coolnrough - Iniscaern -	Farmer - Farmer -	Alexander Payne - John Hessen -	Coolnrough. Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—Francis M<sup>o</sup> Williams.(signed) *John x Bradley,*  
mark  
Brackaghlinlea.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 154.—James McKeever.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
J. M'K. - -	Bernard Regan - Charles O'Brien -	Coolnagh - Iniscaern -	Farmer - Farmer -	Alexander Payne - John Heenan -	Coolnagh - Longfield -

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

(signed) *James McKeever,  
Braekaghblisien.*

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 149.—Charles Kelly.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
C. K. - -	Bernard Regan - Charles O'Brien -	Coolnagh - Iniscaern -	Farmer - Farmer -	Alexander Payne - John Heenan -	Coolnagh - Longfield -

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose name my Initials are placed.

(signed) *Charles Kelly,  
Braekaghblisien.*

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 159.—John Moran.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscarn Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominees of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominees.
J. M. - - -	Bernard Regan -	Coolbragh - - -	Farmer - - -	Alexander Payne -	Coolbragh.
- - -	Charles Otterson -	Iniscairn - - -	Farmer - - -	John Heenan -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Hugh Shields.* (signed) *John x Moran,*  
 his  
 mark  
 Brackaghlistes.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 189.—Bridget Boyle.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscarn Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominees of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominees.
B. B. - - -	Bernard Regan -	Coolbragh - - -	Farmer - - -	Alexander Payne -	Coolbragh.
- - -	Charles Otterson -	Iniscairn - - -	Farmer - - -	John Heenan -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Hugh Shields.* (signed) *Bridget x Boyle,*  
 her  
 mark  
 Brackaghlistes.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 137.—Denis Kelly.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Person Nominated as Candidate for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of such Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of such Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
D. K. - - -	Bernard Beggs -	Coolough -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Coolough.
	Charles O'Brien -	Iniscaern -	Farmer -	John Heenan -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Hugh Shields.*(signed) *Denis x Kelly,*his  
mark  
Brackaghislies.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No. 140.—John Shiel.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Name of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of such Person Nominated.	Name of Nominator of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominator.
J. S. - - -	Bernard Beggs -	Coolough -	Farmer -	Alexander Payne -	Coolough.
	Charles O'Brien -	Iniscaern -	Farmer -	John Heenan -	Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*James Campbell.*(signed) *John x Shiel,*  
his  
mark  
Brackaghislies.

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No 150.—Robert Shiels.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominatee of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominatee.
R. S. - - -	Bernard Regan Charles Otterton -	Coolnagh - - Iniscaern - -	Farmer - Farmer -	Alexander Payne - John Henson -	Coolnagh. Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

(signed) *Robert Shiels,*  
*Brackaghballyea.*

[For Instructions attached to the Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## Voting Paper for Divisions.

No 28.—John Higgins.

Magherafelt Union.—Iniscaern Electoral Division.

## Voting Paper for One Guardian.

Initials of the Voter against the Name of the Person for whom he intends to Vote.	Names of Persons Nominated as Candidates for the Office of Guardian.	Residence of each Person Nominated.	Quality or Calling of each Person Nominated.	Name of Nominatee of each Candidate.	Residence of Nominatee.
H. J. - - -	Bernard Regan - Charles Otterton -	Coolnagh - - Iniscaern - -	Farmer - Farmer -	Alexander Payne - John Henson -	Coolnagh. Longfield.

I Vote for the Person in the above List against whose Name my Initials are placed.

Witness:—*Hugh Shiels.*(signed) *John x Higgins,*  
*mark*  
*Longfield.*

[For Instructions attached to Voting Paper, see p. 11.]

## — No. 3. —

The Secretary to the Local Government Board, Dublin, to the Clerk and Returning Officer, Magherafelt Union.

Local Government Board, Dublin,

3 August 1883.

Sir,

ADVERTING to previous correspondence, the Local Government Board for Ireland desire to state that they have received the report of their Inspector, Mr. R. Hamilton, with the Minutes of the Evidence taken at the inquiry which he recently held into the complaints made in connection with the election of guardians for the Salterstown, Carnamoney, and Iniscarn Electoral Divisions of the Magherafelt Union, in the month of March last.

As regards the election of a guardian for the Iniscarn Division, the result of the voting, according to your return, was :—

Mr. Otterson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79
Mr. Regan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
									Majority	<u>21</u>

It has been established by the evidence given at the inquiry by yourself, by James Hutchinson, and by the other witnesses examined, that several voting papers were tampered with and spoiled at the house of Mr. Otterson while the voting papers were in the custody of Hutchinson, and the votes given thereon disallowed, and that 25 out of 27 of those voting papers were executed in favour of Mr. Regan.

If those voting papers had not been tampered with and spoiled in the manner disclosed at the inquiry, and if the votes given thereon had been added to the number of votes recorded for Mr. Regan, it is obvious that Mr. Otterson, the person returned by you as the guardian duly elected, could not have obtained a majority of valid votes; and the Local Government Board, therefore, will set aside the return of the election as made by you, and will order a new election of a guardian for the Iniscarn Division, in pursuance of the powers vested in them by section 23 of the Act 6 & 7 Vict. c. 92.

By Order of the Board,

(signed) *W. D. Wodsworth,*  
Secretary.

MANUFACTURERS UNION (ELECTION OF  
OFFICERS)

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COPY of the Return of Expenses filed before  
the Local Government Board Inspector respecting  
the Works in which expenses from Last December  
in the Gloucester Works were contained in  
March last, with the Examination of the  
Inspector and of the Local Government Board  
thereon.

(Mr. O'Donnell)

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Given by the Mayor of Gloucester in Printed,  
by August 21st 1879.

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(Peter G. F.)

100

1000

Gloucester